Financial issues including the sharing of the project costs were discussed during these meetings. The total cost of the project for three phases has been assessed as US $700 million. However, there has been no further progress. The implementation of the project has not started.

Coastal highways in Gujarat

2506. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that though Gujarat has 25 per cent of the country's coast line with many ports, all sections of the coastal highway along this coast have not been upgraded to National Highways;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same;

(c) whether Government accept the necessity of upgrading the coastal highways of Gujarat; and

(d) if so, within what time frame is the upgradation planned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD . RANSPORTAND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) The declaration of any road as National Highway depends not only on the consideration that it runs along the coast but on several other considerations including traffic needs, *inter-se* priority on all India basis and availability of resources. Notwithstanding the above, a length of approximately 732 kilometer running along the coast line in Gujarat has already been converted into National Highways. This includes 370 kilometer declared as National Highways in February 2004.

Pradhan Mantri Bharat Joro Pariyojana

†2507. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to connect the capital cities of all the States through NHDP a four lane Highways would be constructed under Pradhan Mantri Bharat Joro Priyojana;

(b) whether it is a fact that NHDP road passes through Muzaffarpur North to Patna, and in the South the Golden Quadrilateral road passes through Bodhgaya; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.